

# e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 55

December 2008

No. 10



## Calendar

Sat., Nov. 22	GPNS Craft Fair, Town Hall, 10 am–5 pm; last weekly Farmers Market, Penn Place	Fri., Dec. 12	26th Annual Do-It-Yourself Carolfest, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (see p 3)
Thurs., Nov. 27	Happy Thanksgiving! <i>No trash pickup (see p 3)</i>	Sat., Dec. 13	Santa comes to the Town Hall, 2 pm (see poster)
Mon., Dec. 1	Monthly yard waste collection	Thurs., Dec. 18	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Tues., Dec. 2	Meeting on rebuilding GPES, GPES media room, 7 pm (p 2)	Fri., Dec. 19	Film Society, Town Hall, 8 pm
Thurs., Dec. 4	Casual Musicians Club Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Thurs., Dec. 25	Christmas day; <i>no trash pickup</i>
Sat., Dec. 6	GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm	Thurs., Jan. 1	New Year's day; <i>no trash pickup</i>
Mon., Dec. 8	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm	Mon., Jan. 5	Yard waste, Christmas tree collection (see p 3)
Tues., Dec. 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm	Sat., Jan. 10	Large item pickup
		Sat., Jan. 17	Town Dinner (tentative)

## Town Council Meeting Takes Place without Incident

The November 10 meeting of the Town Council was a pretty subdued affair. A presentation by Mrs. Chang-Baxter, principal of Garrett Park Elementary School, and Barbara Ferry, chair of the GPES Education Foundation, explained the request for funds from the town of Garrett Park to help in the building of a bigger stage than is planned for the new school. MCPS has agreed to the size of a desired new stage if funding from outside sources can be found. The school has raised \$20,000 so far, but needs to get at least \$150,000. It is hoped that the town's willingness to

support the project will encourage other potential investors to do so too.

The house on Kenilworth (11204) that had a major fire has been assessed as too damaged to be repaired. So it will be razed and a new structure built. The Historic Preservation Committee will have pictures taken before the house comes down.

It was announced that Maryland Park and Planning is willing to transfer the Nursery School building and land to the town if the town can

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Garrett Park Citizens Association  
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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reciprocate by giving some town land to MPP. The land most available is part of the basketball court next to Penn Place. If this all happens, the Nursery School would be responsible for the care and upkeep of the building.

The petition for a referendum on Ordinance 2008-05 was successful, and there will be a voting date set after the Citizens Association has a chance to hold a town meeting. But since the normal schedule would put the next two Citizens Association meetings on the night before Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, it may be January before one can be held.

The budget for the rest of this year will be fairly tight, since the town has spent \$97,000 for lawyers' fees with respect to tightening the code of ordinances and the Martin suit. Money was approved to be transferred from the Operating Contingency and Capital Contingency funds to the Professional Fee account to help cover the current bills. If this keeps going on, what will happen to street paving, sweeping, emergency sewer repairs, and the like?

No fireworks this time, which this reporter was sort of waiting to see.

Mary Moyer

[Note: Former correspondent Richard Folkers is continuing to report on Town Council meetings on his new blog, Rich's Garrett Park Blog, at [garrettpark.blogspot.com](http://garrettpark.blogspot.com). This medium allows both immediacy and the opportunity for dialogue, since readers can post comments. Check it out. —Ed.]

## Cub Scouts Raking Leaves

If you see a small army of rake-wielding boys on November 22, it is just an annual community service activity of Garrett Park's cub scouts, Pack 521. The boys will be clearing the yards of several town residents with great enthusiasm. The scout pack annually obtains from the Town Office a list of properties to work on, and the boys take over with gloves, rakes, and tarps. Please cheer them on if you see them!

Mary Moyer

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## Town Council Duties

The following is the list of responsibilities for the current Town Councilmembers:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Beth Irons:     | Historic Preservation Committee<br>Zoning issues<br>Building and demolition permits |
| Solange Hansen: | Town right-of-ways<br>Arboretum   |
| Chuck Berry:    | Parks and open spaces<br>Swimming Pool Association                                  |
| Hans Wegner:    | Town streets and drains<br>Strathmore Avenue<br>Street lights                       |
| Jack Mandel:    | Town Hall<br>Penn Place   |

If you have a problem and need answers, call the Town Office at 301-933-7488, which will get you the answer or get you to the right person.

## GPES

Homework club is still looking for adult community volunteers to work one on one with students as "buddies" for one hour on Tuesday afternoons. If interested, call the school (301-929-2170) to volunteer.

The Library is also looking for volunteers a couple of hours a week to help shelve books. No experience is necessary—on the job training is provided. Call Jane Bell at the school number to volunteer.

The last public meeting about the rebuilding of GPES will be held on December 2 at 7 pm in the Media Center. Come and see the new plans.

After-school clubs are in the process of gearing up for the 2008–09 school year. There are fewer clubs this year, which means fewer children will have an opportunity to join. A lottery was held to fill the slots of the most popular clubs—cooking, crafts, and video. Also offered this year are the usual math games, stitchery, environmental, and musical theatre. New on the agenda are chess club and Little Feet cheerleading/exercise.

The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

**Citizens Association Officers:**  
President: Matt Stavish  
Co-President: Chris Strong  
Vice-President: Cathy Rinzel  
Treasurer: Pam Morgan  
Co-Treasurer: Tom Rodes  
Secretary: Lara Hines

**Bugle staff:**  
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**Reporters:** Mary Moyer (Box 98)  
Carol Davies Lillie (Box 351)  
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**Ads:** Mary Moyer (Box 98)  
**Subscriptions:** Jane Salomon (Box 227) **Distribution:** Peggy Pratt  
Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$15 (first class) or \$13 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail through the town Web site: [www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/submitBugleArticle.php). The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

# Town Administrator Notes

**Holiday Gifts:** If any resident would like to make a holiday gift to the five men who take away our trash, recycling, and yard waste, please mail it to PO Box 84, or drop it off at the Town Office. Checks should be payable to Garrett Park, and donations are fully tax-deductible. We will handle this the same way as we have in past years. The town will send each contributor an acknowledgement and will see that the fund is properly distributed the week before Christmas to the Montgomery County Sanitation and Recycling, Inc., workers who service Garrett Park.

**Holiday Collection of Trash, Recycling, and Yard Waste:** Thanksgiving Day trash collection will be on the following Monday (December 1). Christmas and New Year's Day trash collection will be on the following Mondays (December 29 and January 5). Yard waste will be collected on the first Mondays in December, January, and February (December 1, January 5, and February 2). We will return to weekly Monday collection of yard waste in March.

**January Christmas Collection:** Please put your trees out for collection with the January yard waste on Monday, January 5, if possible. Otherwise, put them out as you take them down and town staff will come around and chip them. Please try to have them out by the following Monday (January 12). All Christmas trees collected are recycled.

**Large Item Collection:** The next large item collection will be on Saturday, January 10.

**Leaves & Traffic:** The leaves are falling thick and fast now, and big piles are appearing at the roadside. Please ask your children not to play in piles along the street. Motorists, please use extra care and keep your speed down. Leaf-rakers, please try to keep your piles as narrow as possible so as not to restrict the flow of traffic unduly.

**Town Hall Rentals:** The Town Hall continues to be very much in demand. Residents who wish to reserve it for events should plan well ahead in order to reserve a date and avoid disappointment.

Call the Town Office to make a reservation.

**Montgomery County Volunteer Center:** Every year the MCVC compiles a listing of ways to help others during the holiday season. To donate time, money, or gifts, please call the Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600 or visit their Web site at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and click on volunteers at the left of your screen.

*Twenty-Sixth*

**Annual Do-It-Yourself Carolfest**

Friday, December 12, 7:30 pm

Town Hall

Sacred and secular music to sing

Call 933-5764 for information

Elizabeth, Jose, Barbara, Butch, and Frank join me in wishing all town residents a fine Thanksgiving. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or just want to chat, please feel free to stop by the office any time, or call 301-933-7488.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator

## Green Again

Thanks go to Beth Irons for her donation to our Green Banner Fund. This is in honor of her mother Ruth, father Howard, and brother Bill.

Have you paid your dues yet? The Town Dinner is coming up in January, and we could use the money for decorations and wine! You can mail your family's dues to Box 456.

Mary Moyer



## Start the Holidays in Song

On Friday, December 12, the holiday season in Garrett Park will make its official appearance. The twenty-sixth annual Do-It-Yourself Carolfest will be held in the Town Hall at 7:30 pm. The songs will include a mixture of sacred and secular music. The first half will be geared towards the children, so that after intermission the younger participants can leave and the serious singers can continue with some harder music. The small group will entertain with songs celebrating the holidays. So bring your voices ready to open the holiday season in rousing song. If anyone has suggestions for music for next year, bring a copy with you. P.S. There will not be Messiah music this year—sorry.

Mary Moyer

Visit Garrett Park's Web site:  
[www.garrettpark-md.gov/](http://www.garrettpark-md.gov/)

# Citizens Association News

The Citizens Association meeting on October 22 featured a discussion of the future of the Community Center building, which houses the Nursery School. Tara Flynn of the Save Our School Task Force gave a brief summary of the school's 55-year history and the struggle that has unfolded over the year about its future. The building is owned by the Montgomery County Department of Parks, and last year the Director of Parks assured the Nursery School that it could remain in the school until the construction of the new elementary school (slated to begin in June 2010). However, this assurance is subject to the county's budget. Last spring, funding for the building was almost cut from the county budget. This uncertainty makes it difficult for families to plan for their children's education and thus for the school to attract new families.

To ensure a secure future, the Nursery School is proposing that the town of Garrett Park seek the transfer of the land and building from the Department of Parks to the town of Garrett Park and enter into a multiyear lease with the Nursery School. In exchange for a "no-rent" lease, the Nursery School would be financially respon-

sible for repairing, maintaining, and operating the building. The Nursery School would pay for initial repairs through a fundraising campaign, potential grants, and potential loans. The operating and maintenance costs would be covered by tuition and rental revenues. The town would be responsible for the maintaining the grounds. The county estimates that the initial repairs would be \$150,000 to \$200,000, but some of these repairs have already been completed. Several questions were asked, including who would pay for the transfer of utilities, if the town is legally allowed to own property not contiguous to the town's property and whether the change in ownership would trigger licensing and structural codes that may have been grandfathered in under the old ownership structure. The town is looking into all of these questions. The next step is a meeting with the Parks Department to discuss long- and short-term solutions to the problem.

Also discussed was the petition for a referendum to recall the recent ordinance on the amendment of Chapter 4 of the Garrett Park Town Code regarding lot coverage. There were arguments for and against the referendum.

## Citizens Association Events

**Pumpkin Carving:** The annual pumpkin carving contest, sponsored by the GPCA, took place on Sunday, October 26. Winners in various categories are below. Thanks to the Black Market for providing delicious baked goods for this event.

Name	Age	Prize category
See print edition for names; the <i>e-Bugle</i> does not include children's names, private e-mail addresses, or private telephone numbers.	6	Coolest
	7	Spookiest
	13	Most Whimsical
	2	Most in Need of a Dentist
	7	Craziest
	7	Angriest
	12	Most Nervous
	10	Best in Snow / Show
		Cutest
	10	Best Fangs
	7	Most Skeleton-like
	6	Scariest
	4	Goofiest
		Most Wide-Eyed
	4	Battiest
	11	Tiniest and Most Regal
	5	Ghouliest
	5	Kookiest
	12	Most Fred
	7	Most Ghostly
		Most Traditional
	4	Best Dressed
	15	Most Political
	5	(left before the judging)
	13	Happiest
	8	Best Ears

**Election Night Party:** The Garrett Park Film Society and the Citizens Association sponsored an election night party at the Town Hall at 8 pm on November 4. If attendees had leaned any further left, the Town Hall might have tipped over completely. More than 80 locals of all ages met to

share cheers and tears as Senator Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States. Food and beverages were served, and applause followed each announcement of key swing state results favoring a Democratic candidate. The only real boos of the night came with passage of the controversial slot machine amendment. At 10 pm, more than 40 residents began to settle in for what looked to be an inevitable outcome; at 11:01, when the press called the race for Obama, the crowd's response rivaled, in spirit, if not size, any of the celebrations happening simultaneously all across the nation. A special thanks to Jack Mandel, who was the technical muscle and energy behind this great evening.

**Upcoming Events:** The Town Dinner is tentatively set for January 17, 2009. Please save the date.

## Garrett Park Listserv

Tap into neighborhood resources and stay informed with the Garrett Park neighborhood listserv. This electronic forum lets neighbors communicate information about town concerns, safety issues, upcoming events, and recommended services (e.g., contractors, lawn care firms, doctors, and baby sitters.) The listserv will not be used for unsolicited marketing, and you can unsubscribe at any time. To join, e-mail Todd Harris or sign in at [groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GarrettParkneighbors/join).

## Comments for the Citizens Association?

If you have questions or comments, please send a note to P.O. Box 456 or e-mail either Matt Stavish or Chris Strong.

More than 80 Garrett Park residents, families, and friends poured into the Town Hall on Sunday evening, November 2, to taste a medley of soups made from local ingredients and to support the DC-based Dinner Program for Homeless Women (DPHW).

Over 18 soup makers as well as a number of homemade bread makers provided the delicious meal. Marian Green used local ingredients from her garden to create stunning centerpieces at each table. A half-dozen cheerful volunteers, organized by GIVES president Glenda Ingham, saw that everything ran smoothly.

To reduce the waste from the event, participants brought their own silverware. Soup bowls were borrowed, washed, and returned. Drinks were provided in compostable cups, which promise to biodegrade in Carol Henig's compost pile in 60 days. (We'll see!)

Best of all, generous participants donated over \$1000, which will be provided to the Dinner Program for Homeless Women. DPHW Director Erika Barry found her way to the Soup Supper with some difficulty, but managed to arrive in time to share some inspiring stories of the clients

they serve. She noted that corporate donations have already fallen off because of the economic climate, while expenses, especially for food, are sharply higher.

If your family didn't make it to the supper this year, you can still help by making a GIVES contribution at the Post Office on the first Saturday of every month. Also, there are brochures at the PO for the November 22 Walk for the Homeless in DC. The cost is only \$30 to register; you can register for the event at [www.dphw.org](http://www.dphw.org). If DPHW gets 1500 sign-ups, a major funder will provide \$25,000 in additional funds. Sign up if you can!

Karen Anderson

Twenty-five boys from Garrett Park Cub Scout Pack 521 dropped off food requests and then picked up food donations on November 8. Thanks to the generosity of residents of Garrett Park, Garrett Park Estates, and nearby neighborhoods, the Scouts delivered about 150 bags of food, totaling 1000 lb, to the Manna Food Bank in Rockville. All area food banks are reporting increased need for donations this year. Thanks to everyone for their contributions!

# Corry Bach-Hansen

It is with great sadness that I report the recent passing of my mother, a former long-time Garrett Park resident. Many of you may remember my mom and dad (Corry and Eivind Bach-Hansen) who painted many homes while running Danish Contractors. From 1978 to 1997, we lived first in Garrett Park Estates and then in Garrett Park. In 1984 our home on Rokeby Avenue caught fire in the middle of the night and was burned to the ground. My parents were devastated, not having renter's insurance at the time. They worked very hard, and with the help of friends and neighbors were able to get back on their feet. The following year they were able to realize their dream of home ownership in Garrett Park with our home on the corner of Strathmore Avenue and Kenilworth Avenue.


In 1995, my father passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. Soon afterwards we sold our home and moved away from Garrett Park. My mother relocated to Easton, MD, where my sister, Susan Kendall, resides. In 2000 my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer; after a mastectomy, she was cancer free. However, last month, she had back pains that required surgery to alleviate the pain of a fractured vertebra and was diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer. She was scheduled for a PET scan to begin the enormous task of battling cancer again. Instead, God had different plans, because on October 9, my mom passed away peacefully in her sleep and was reunited with my father and other friends and relatives. She was 71 years old.

Survivors include children Corry and Chuckie King of Boyds, MD; Susan Kendall of Easton, MD; and Scott and Michele Bach-Hansen of Greenville, SC, as well as 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. A private graveside service was held at Parklawn Memorial Park on October 15.

Scott Bach-Hansen  
105 Couples Ct.  
Greenville, SC 29609

**INDEPENDENT TUTOR**  
**BONNIE BOCK**

**301-564-5705**  
 bonniebock@verizon.net



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### Support the Council

The lawsuit against the town by one of our residents is very unfortunate. It is costing us a lot financially, but more importantly, it has created a divisiveness that is costing us in time, energy, and good will, and works to weaken our bond as neighbors who value each other. I served on the Town Council for five years as the Councilmember assigned to the setback committee. During those five years, there were many times that a resident's plans for building did not fit with the ordinances. However, we were able to reach a satisfactory outcome for most (not all) homeowners, either by granting a variance or advising the resident in changing the design. (Harry Gordon has been very generous with his time and talent and has helped a lot of residents through the permitting process.) The ordinance, with community consensus, was changed while I was on the Council to loosen the restrictions on open front porches. There is no intent by the Council to now reinterpret that allowance. If the residents in town want further changes, there are ways to work together to achieve results. We should not insult our Council and committee members or divert so much of our limited resources to a lawsuit and now a referendum.

The Council voted to protect our current ordinances (and the town from further legal fees) by making our setback ordinance a zoning ordinance. The group of residents who filed the lawsuit has launched a campaign to overturn the zoning ordinance. They continue to say the Council is making "tremendous" changes to the ordinance without our knowledge. That is not true. The Council has assured us that what they just enacted will not change how lot coverage is currently being calculated, no matter what some people are saying.

Are we thinking this group of volunteers, recruited and elected by their neighbors, is not to be trusted? We must be careful, in trying to find a way to best deal with this mess, that we do not inadvertently set aside our current setback ordinances. The largest public outcry by town residents in recent history has been to urge the council to restrict "overbuilding," limit the size of new houses, preserve open spaces and trees, and not to grant variances in conflict with our setback ordinances. If the majority of us want to change our ordinances to make them less (or more) restrictive we should form a task force (as Mayor Keller has already started to do), work together, and bring recommendations to the council.

For now, when the issue comes to referendum, I urge you to vote to support the Council's action and let our current ordinances stand. Let's not lose control by default.

Chris Fischman

### Keep the Ordinance

The Town Council's recently enacted open space ordinance has been petitioned to referendum, meaning that it will be put to a vote of the town. There has been significant dialogue regarding the desirability of the ordinance. We hope that a majority of residents will support the Council's unanimous (5 to 0) decision to enact it. This will help maintain our open space standards consistent with the town's living environment. Below is a summary of recent, published criticisms of the ordinance and our response to those criticisms.

Criticism 1. The newly adopted ordinance represents a "tremendous change" from the existing ordinance and should be subjected to rigorous review before being adopted. The Council's actions "put the cart before the horse."

Response. On several occasions, the chairman of the town's Setback Advisory Committee, Harry Gordon, has answered the criticism, stating that the newly adopted ordinance would not constitute *any* change to the standard or to the Committee's interpretation of its application. Harry is an architect and has been chair of the Committee for more than 10 years. Therefore, we issue a challenge to those who contend otherwise. We challenge the critics to find a single example within the past 10 years, verified by Harry, whereby the newly adopted ordinance would have yielded a different result from the Committee's interpretation of the existing Setback Ordinance. If an example cannot be found, we respectfully suggest that the criticism is false.

Criticism 2. The town should reject *any* new open space ordinance until such time as the promised comprehensive review of the town's open space law is completed.

Response. A comprehensive review of the town's land use laws has been initiated by the Council. That comprehensive review will be contentious and time-consuming, given the scope of the task and the widely differing views of town residents. No doubt the process will take at least a year. In the meantime, there is a chance that the town's existing (1992) open space ordinance will be struck down by the courts. As Peter Benjamin stated in last month's *Bugle*, "If this portion of the 1992 law were struck down, the town would not retain its own open space provision, stricter than the county's ... which has worked well since 1992." The newly adopted ordinance is intended to preserve the substance of the existing open space law in a legally secure way, while allowing the comprehensive review to take place.

Criticism 3. Even if the town's open space ordinance is struck down by the courts, the county's overlay zone for Garrett Park limits structures to 20 percent of total lot coverage, "a reasonable protection for open space."

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Response. This criticism conflicts with criticisms 1 and 2—namely, that changes in the town's open space ordinance should be adopted only after the town conducts a comprehensive review. Maybe the 20 percent Montgomery County overlay zone standard for Garrett Park is appropriate. Maybe it is not. A 20 percent standard would certainly constitute a change from the town's existing 18 percent standard. Many residents have fought hard to develop and maintain open space standards that complement our desirable living environment. Until the promised review is completed, we believe that the "default" should be the town's current open space standard—determined by the town itself—not the county's standard for Garrett Park.

Dick Fischman, Glenda Ingham,  
Ken Schwartz, Steve Schwartzman,  
and Barbara Shidler

## Support the Nursery School

At the October Town Council meeting, Tara Flynn of Kenilworth Avenue presented a proposal recently sent by the Board of the Garrett Park Nursery School to the town of Garrett Park to establish a public-private partnership for repairing and preserving the Garrett Park Community Center building and playground for continued use by our community and the Nursery School. I ask you to please consider this proposal, come to upcoming public meetings to discuss it, and let the Town Council know how important this building and playground are to our community.

For over 50 years, the Garrett Park Community Center, a modest building and playground next to Garrett Park Elementary School, has been the home of the Garrett Park Nursery School. Many children in Garrett Park and surrounding neighborhoods (and indeed, more than a few adults) enjoyed their formative preschool years at the Center. Now the building and playground are in serious jeopardy because of county budget constraints. We believe the Community Center must be saved—it holds an important place in the history of the town and provides a home for an important community resource: the Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School. However, the building and playground will not be saved unless we act quickly to seek a solution.

Our proposal, in a nutshell, is that the town of Garrett Park negotiate with Montgomery County Department of Parks to transfer ownership of the Community Center building and its accompanying land to the town of Garrett Park. The Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School would assume *full* financial responsibility for the completion of the required major repairs (namely replacement of the roof and the windows and drainage improvements) within a specified period of time in exchange for a long-term lease with no rent. The school would pay all utilities and regular building maintenance during the lease term. The town of Garrett Park would provide grounds

maintenance and garbage and recycling disposal. The Nursery School would operate the facility in a fashion in keeping with the spirit of its original purpose: a place for community educational, recreational, and social activities.

The county estimates the major repairs to cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000. We are confident the school will be able to repair, operate, and maintain the building through a combination of a fundraising campaign seeking funds and donations of labor and supplies, grants from foundations and/or the state, and/or small business loans. The building would be available, free of charge, for official Garrett Park community events and meetings (similar to Town Hall use policy for town committee meetings, etc.) that do not interfere with school and other scheduled functions. Organizations or entities like the Girl Scouts would continue to be able to rent the facility at affordable rates that the town would help to set. Moreover, the Nursery School will explore expanding the services it provides the community, for example, by either renting the facility to an entity that can provide child care for children before and after school or developing its own before/after care program.

As reported in the Town Council notes (p 1), the county has expressed a willingness to transfer the building and the  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre lot that includes the playgrounds on its north and south sides to the town. The county is asking the town to exchange ownership of the  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre lot by the county-owned land that makes up Garrett-Waverly Park next to Penn Place. The county already owns the tennis courts and about  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the basketball court and grassy area. The town would give up legal ownership of its portion of this park, but the county would assume responsibility for maintenance and future improvements of the whole park. Since the town currently conducts day-to-day maintenance of the area surrounding the tennis courts, the result may be a reduced annual cost for the town, or a payment by the county for the town's maintenance services. The Parks Department offered strong assurances that the park would remain what it is, a local neighborhood park with no fees or permitting requirements, available for use by the surrounding residents. The town awaits a draft written agreement from the county to begin negotiations.

The Garrett Park Community Center building has a rich history. Though it is currently owned by the Department of Parks, it was built, in large measure, by the townspeople of Garrett Park. They raised the money and provided much of the labor for the original Community Center. Later, the building was expanded to house the Garrett Park Library, a pet project of the late Nora Payne, which became one of the founding libraries of the Montgomery County Public Library system. In 2007, the Department of Parks recommended that it be transferred to the County Public Schools, who would likely have turned the whole area

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into paved parking and play areas. Hundreds of members of the community expressed outrage at the recommendation. The Department completed structural testing on the building in March 2008, demonstrating that it is sound but in need of a number of repairs. In the current budget environment, it is unlikely the county will muster funds for the needed repairs.

As a measure of our commitment to preserving the Community Center, the Nursery School is kicking off a fundraising campaign by establishing a fund for securing the home of the Garrett Park Nursery School. In the same spirit as that original \$5 appropriation in 1947 made by the Women's Club to start the building fund to erect the Community Center, the Nursery School has appropriated \$5,000 of its "rainy day" savings to establish the fund. Indeed, we have already received our first designated gift from Glenda and Ken Ingham of Rokeby Avenue. If you or an organization or business with which you are associated would like to contribute to the campaign, please contact Moira Olevsky, Tara Flynn, or me.

But first, please contact the Town Council and ask them to continue the fight to save the Community Center!

Gerilee Bennett  
Executive Board President  
Garrett Park Cooperative Nursery School

A "Fake"?

[The poster for the November 11 Lunch Bunch included a letter of thanks signed "Barack Obama." This caused some comment. —Ed.]

The thank you letter from the White House, so warmly received by our Lunch Bunch committee—and our town—has been called a fake. The beautiful and grateful expression and the words of love cannot be so crudely dismissed.

After checking the election results, we are proceeding with an investigation as to whether Barack Obama actually felt thus rewarded by the overflowing election support of Garrett Park.

Donal McLaughlin

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Sad news to report: Dr. Mitchell Max, a resident of Kenilworth Avenue, died on October 22. At the time of his death he was a senior investigator with the Center for Pain Research at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Before that he had worked at NIH. He leaves behind Lisa, his wife of 23 years, and two daughters. His funeral service was conducted at the Abat Shalom Congregation.
- ♪ In another loss for our community, Lori Sampson died of cancer at Casey House in Rockville on October 25. She was well known for her acting and directing abilities, especially at the Silver Spring Stage, Montgomery Players, and Cedar Lane Stage. Survivors include husband Nick and three children. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Our condolences to both of these families.

- ♪ The Post Office has holiday season stamps ready for purchase. There are Christmas issues (secular and religious), Eid, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa to be had. The last day to mail your cards and packages to make it to their destinations in time for Christmas is December 20 by Priority Mail and December 23 by Express Mail. For military mail, the dates are December 11 for First Class and December 18 for Express Mail. Check with the Post Office for International Mail dates.
- ♪ Does it seem as though all the leaves fell off the trees the weekend of November 8? Driving down Albemarle Avenue two days later was like trying to dodge piles of snow. Maybe they all decided to come down at once and save us the trouble of continual raking.

Jobs List

The following are the responses so far to our earlier request for the snow shoveling and baby sitting list for the winter months.

Name	Phone number	Job
See print edition for names; the <i>e-Bugle</i> does not include children's names, private e-mail addresses. or private telephone numbers.		Baby sitting, Montgomery College course
		Baby sitting, Holy Cross certified
		Snow shoveling, baby sitting
		Snow shoveling
		Snow shoveling

Remember, the sidewalks in front of your house are your responsibility to clean off after a storm so that pedestrians can walk on them and not in the streets. You have 24 hours after the last snowflake falls to do the work.

If anyone else, 13 years or older, would like to be put on the list, please call Mary Moyer by December 5 and leave a name, age, phone number, and type of job.

If any parents are anxious and want to volunteer their children to dig out or baby sit, we'll run the list again next month. Where is everyone? Did they all go off to college? Or is it just too much hard labor for the younger generation?



## Letter from the Mayor

A wise man once said “Study the past if you would define the future.” I write this having just returned from the first step in the town’s newly launched effort to define its future—a delightful and informative Architectural Walking Tour conducted by the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee. Of course, land use is only one part of what will form the town’s future, but it is a central element. So I applaud the Committee’s willingness to help us to understand better how the town developed—the people and events that shaped the environment that we now enjoy and want to sustain. In particular, I want to extend the town’s thanks to Nancy Schwartz, who obtained the grant that will permit publication of a walking tour brochure and who did much of the research and writing for the brochure. Nancy was ably assisted by town archivist/historian Barbara Shidler, members of the Committee, and others.

The next steps in this process will be set, in collaboration with the Town Council, by the Land Use Task Force that I announced in this space last month. Expressions of interest in serving on the Task Force have been received from over a score of residents. I am pleased to note that Gene Brantly, former head of the Citizens Association, has volunteered to chair the group. Beth Irons will serve as the Council liaison. Stay tuned for developments.

At its December meeting, the Town Council will further consider setting a date for a referendum on the lot coverage ordinance recently adopted by the Council. The ordinance was successfully petitioned to referendum, which means that it will be put to a vote of the town to determine whether the town wants to retain the ordinance that the Council passed unanimously at

its October meeting. The ordinance replaces the town’s requirement that a “main building” leave 82 percent open space on a lot with a requirement that the structure cover no more than 18 percent of the lot. Although the change in the law does not alter in any fashion the permissible lot coverage of houses in Garrett Park (or the required open space), the restatement of the standard was necessary to meet an issue raised in litigation, and was made possible by a state-granted expansion of the town’s authority to address its own land use issues.

There will undoubtedly be more discussion and debate about the referendum and the underlying ordinance. I ask you simply to remember that historically we have been a town that acts to define its own future. From Garrett Park’s very inception—when the town’s founders obtained from Annapolis one of the swiftest municipal incorporations on record in order to control a perceived threat to the character of the town—our residents have directed their own destiny. You will have an opportunity to continue that principle. Rather than devolve the determination of Garrett Park’s open space decisions to bureaucrats in Rockville, I hope that you will vote to confirm the choice that the town made in 1992 establishing its own standard for open space preservation, and then work with the town and the Land Use Task Force to decide what standards should establish Garrett Park’s future appearance. The choices we make as a town will affect the legacy we leave for future residents; as Garrett Park has always done in the past, we should act thoughtfully and deliberately to define our own future.

Chris Keller

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Santa's ready  
are you?



He will be at the Town Hall  
December 13<sup>th</sup> 2008 2 P.m.

Sing along with George Oakley  
Santa Arrives At 2<sup>45</sup> P.m.  
Hot Chocolate-Cookies-candy Canes